

Appl. No.: 10/523,090

Amdt. Dated May 22, 2006

Response to Office Action Mailed February 22, 2006

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

1. (Currently Amended) An end position detector for movable switch parts, comprising a rod assembly and a housing, into which the rod assembly penetrates and in which at least one sensor for sensing an end position of the rod assembly is arranged, wherein

the rod assembly is connected to a movable switch part (3) such that it is adapted to be pivoted in a vertical plane that lies transverse to a longitudinal direction of rails, and the movable switch part (3),

the rod assembly comprises at least one rod (8) of circular cross section, wherein said rod (8) in a region of said rod (8) that penetrates into the housing (12) in a sealed fashion carries on a periphery of said rod (8) at least one switching flank (13) that cooperates with a switch (16), and

the housing (12) is connected to a stationary part of the switch such that it is adapted to be pivoted in a vertical plane that lies transverse to the longitudinal direction of the movable switch part (3).

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Previously Presented) End position detector according to Claim 1, wherein pivot support is achieved by utilizing elastic connecting elements or spherical bearings.

4. (Currently Amended) End position detector according to Claim 1, wherein the rod assembly is connected to the movable switch part (3) such that it is adapted to be displaced in the longitudinal direction of the rails movable switch part (3).

5. (Currently Amended) End position detector according to Claim 1, wherein the rod assembly is connected to a vertical bolt (10) that is guided in a sliding fashion in an oblong hole (14) that essentially extends in the longitudinal direction (15) of the ~~rails~~ movable switch part (3) and is arranged in a base plate (4) of the movable switch part (3).

6. (Previously Presented) End position detector according to Claim 5, wherein the bolt (10) comprises a spherical contact surface (20) or a sliding ring with a spherical contact surface in a region of a section of said bolt (10) that penetrates into the oblong hole (14).

7. (Previously Presented) End position detector according to Claim 5, wherein the rod (8) is connected to the bolt (10) in an angularly rigid fashion, via a connecting element (9).

8. (Previously Presented) End position detector according to Claim 5, wherein the rod (8) or a connecting element (9) engages on the bolt (10) via spring elements (23) that act in a direction of a longitudinal axis (25) of the bolt (10).

9. (Previously Presented) End position detector according to Claim 1, wherein the switching flank (13) is adapted to be adjusted in an axial direction of the rod (8).

10. (Previously Presented) End position detector according to Claim 9, wherein the switching flank (13) is realized in the form of an end face of a tube (32) that is adapted to be screwed on the rod (8).

11. (Previously Presented) End position detector according to Claim 1, wherein an effective length of the rod (8) is variable and adapted to a respective travel stroke of the movable switch part (3).

12. (Previously Presented) End position detector according to Claim 1, wherein the rod (8) comprises an outside thread (26) on an end of said rod (8) that faces the movable switch part (3), and wherein the rod is adapted to be screwed into an inside thread of a part that is connected to the movable switch part (3), and fixed in a respective position.

13. (Previously Presented) End position detector according to Claim 1, wherein the rod assembly and the housing (12) are accommodated in a trough-like sleeper (5) or in a stationary switch part.

14. (Previously Presented) End position detector according to Claim 1, wherein the housing (12) comprises a guide tube (11), the length of which is greater than a maximum travel stroke of the movable switch part (3), wherein the rod (8) is guided in said guide tube in a sliding fashion.

15. (Currently Amended) End position detector according to any one of Claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14, wherein the switch (16) comprises a spring-loaded plunger (29) that engages into a groove defined by the switching flank (13) in a correct end position of the movable switch part (3).

16. (Previously Presented) End position detector according to Claim 7, wherein the rod (8) is connected to the bolt (10) in an angularly rigid fashion at an angle of approximately 90°.

17. (Previously Presented) End position detector according to Claim 12, wherein the part that is connected to the movable switch part (3) is a connecting element (9).

18. (Currently Amended) End position detector according to Claim 2, Claim 4, wherein pivot support is achieved by utilizing elastic connecting elements or spherical bearings.

19. (Currently Amended) End position detector according to Claim 2, Claim 5, wherein the rod assembly is connected to the movable switch part (3) such that it is adapted to be displaced in the longitudinal direction of the rails movable switch part (3).

20. (Currently Amended) End position detector according to Claim 2, Claim 4, wherein the rod assembly is connected to a vertical bolt (10) that is guided in a sliding fashion in an oblong hole (14) that essentially extends in the longitudinal direction (15) of the rails movable switch part (3) and is arranged in a base plate (4) of the movable switch part (3).